

Margaret Kilpatrick O'Brien, 79



Margaret Kilpatrick O'Brien, 79, passed away peacefully in the company of her family on Oct. 7, after an extended battle with breast cancer. A longtime Duxbury resident, Margaret taught at Duxbury High School for 24 years, retiring in 1998, and was president of the teacher's union for part of that time. She was well-loved by her students, many of whom credit Mrs. O'Brien with influencing their decisions to choose careers in the sciences. She graded AP chemistry exams, an honor only given to the top chemistry teachers in the country. In her earlier years, she worked for a Nobel Prize winning chemist, and she received a full merit scholarship to Gettysburg College, where she was Phi Beta Kappa and a chemistry major, class of 1959. As a high school student, she had the record high GPA at her high school.

As Duxbury residents, Marge and her family were members of St. John's Episcopal Church. After moving to Richmond, Va. to be closer to their children and grandchildren, Marge and her husband Jim became members of St. David's Episcopal Church in North Chesterfield, Va.

Marge was a great teacher, a loving and devoted wife, an incredible mother and grandmother, a great friend. She was a brilliant mind, a joyful spirit, a kind soul. She treated everyone with respect. She was such a positive influence on so many, and she made the world a better place. She will be missed dearly by all who knew her.

Marge leaves behind her loving husband Jim O'Brien, now of Richmond, Va.; daughter Claudia O'Brien and her two boys, Dylan and Colin of McLean, Va. ; son Scott O'Brien, his wife Emily, and their three children, James, Annie, and Benjamin, of Chapel Hill, N.C.; and sister Ruth Rine, of Greencastle, Pa.

Memorial services were held Oct. 15 at St. David's Episcopal Church in North Chesterfield, Va., and will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church in McLean, Va., on Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Margaret's name to the Gettysburg College Chemistry Department, gettysburg.edu/alumni2/give/.